

# **Sermon Supplement from October 8**

## **Spiritual Encouragement In The Meantime | 1 Thess. 3:6-13**

### **Warm Up**

- Talk about a time you waited with anxiety for important news and then received good news. What happened? How did you feel? What did you say/do?

### **Dig In**

#### **Read 3:6-8 | Keep Standing Up**

- How would you describe in your own words the “good news” that Paul received in these verses? Why was this news so precious to him? What did it do for him?
- What do these verses teach us about their relationship with God and their relationship with Paul? Why are both aspects so important?
- What’s the difference between standing firm on our own and standing firm in the Lord?

#### **Read vv. 3:9-10 | Keep Growing Up**

- In what ways might your spiritual growth be an encouragement to others?
- We all have areas where we are “*lacking in the faith*”. What are some of the most common? What are some of yours? What is something specific that you could do to grow in that area?

#### **Read vv. 3:11-13 | Keep Looking Up**

- List all the ways you see the Lord at work in these verses.
- What do you learn about the coming of the Lord here?
- Why is the tension of divine sovereignty and human responsibility so important in the Christian walk?

### **Apply**

- If someone were giving a report on your spiritual condition, what would they say?
- What needs to change?
- What is a practical step you will take this week as a result of this study?

*(Bible Reading Guide and Resources on Other Side)*

**Weekly Bible Reading Guide** – In order to help you engage with God’s Word and our Sunday sermons, we suggest using the exercises below as part of your personal Bible reading and study for the coming week.

**Next Week’s Sermon Text** - *1 Thessalonians 4:1-12*

**Study Exercises** (*use as you have time*)

1. Read the text at least 5 times (in different translations if possible)
2. Answer some basic investigative questions such as: *What are important terms or concepts? What is the tone? What is emphasized, repeated or related? Are there significant comparisons or contrasts? What verses or ideas jump out at you?*
3. Make a list of terms, people, places, or ideas that you need to research further? Use a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or digital resources to help you understand these.
4. In your own words, what is the big idea of this text?
5. Consult 1 or more of the resources listed below. How does this expand your understanding of the text?
6. Apply It: What are the major points of application from this text? How does what you have learned impact the way you think, feel, or act?

**Resources**

- A good Study Bible such as the ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, Faithlife Study Bible (free app),
- Video Introduction: Watch The Bible Project summary videos for 1&2 Thessalonians
- Study Guide: [1&2 Thessalonians and Titus](#) MacArthur Bible Study Guide
- Basic Commentary: [1&2 Thessalonians For You](#) Ligon Duncan
- In-depth Commentary: [The Letters to the Thessalonians](#) Pillar New Testament Commentary, Gene L. Green
- In-depth sermon series: Visit [gty.org](http://gty.org) to find John MacArthur’s verse by verse sermon series on these two books.